

# ACADEMIC QUALITY



## Learning and Teaching Policy

### Multi-Location, Multi-Mode Programmes: Policy on Programme Titles, Learning Outcomes and Courses

## Introduction

The University has had in place, since 2014, a 4-part [Code of Practice for the Management of Multi-Location, Multi-Mode Programmes](#), which provides HWU's own framework for the management, assurance and enhancement of programmes delivered in multiple locations and by multiple modes.

The "Multi Code" is being replaced by the [Global Code of Practice for the Management, Assurance and Enhancement of Taught Programmes](#) (known as "The Global Code"), which is currently being revised to align with the 2024 version of the [UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#). It is expected that the revised Global Code will be published by end of 2026/27, taking account of the phased publication of the Advice and Guidance sections within the UK Quality Code.

Both the Multi Code and the Global Code contain a series of principles on programme/degree titles, programme learning outcomes and course learning outcomes in multi-location/mode programmes. The principles clarify where standardisation is required, and where instances of variation are permitted, between the different offerings of a programme or a course.

The need for such principles emerged as the University established its campuses in Dubai and Malaysia, and in-country government accreditation authorities required certain elements to be identical between programmes and courses offered in different locations. The process of accreditation in both Dubai and Malaysia had highlighted differences in programme titles, course titles and learning outcomes between programmes and courses being delivered in Scotland, Dubai and Malaysia.

Consequently, in June 2011 and May 2012, the then Quality and Standards Committee approved this Policy on Programme Titles, Learning Outcomes and Courses to provide a clear, definitive framework. More substantive revisions were undertaken in 2025, reflecting differing requirements of Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) relating to accredited and non-accredited provision and to delivery outwith the UK.

This Policy aligns with the University's fundamental principle of "identical academic standards, diversity of learning experiences".

## Policy Statement

### Programme/Award Titles and Learning Outcomes

1. A programme which is offered in multi-locations or multi-modes must have identical programme learning outcomes across all versions. The core knowledge, skills and competencies must likewise be identical.
2. An identical programme/award title must be used across all offerings of a programme where the programme learning outcomes are the same. Different programme titles should not be used in cases where professional accreditation does not extend to all locations/modes, nor where a programme is being offered in different formats (eg accelerated; part-time) or by different modes (on-campus, partnership, online). Programme/award titles should not include reference to location nor to mode of study nor reference to accreditation or lack of accreditation by a PSRB or by an in-country government accrediting authority.

3. Exceptionally and when other alternatives have been proven as unworkable, the University Committee for Quality and Standards (UCQS) may approve, on a case by case basis, the addition of an accrediting body suffix within the title/award title of a programme where required by a PSRB and where justified by potential negative impact on marketing and recruitment. UCQS approval will be in addition to standard business and academic approval processes.

### **Stage Learning Outcomes**

3. In addition to the identical programme learning outcomes, a multi-location/mode programme must have, in the case of undergraduate programmes, identical learning outcomes at each stage of study. The core knowledge, skills and competencies must likewise be identical.

### **Courses: Mandatory Courses, Learning Outcomes, Curriculum and Assessment**

4. A multi-location/mode programme must contain the same mandatory courses across all versions. In some cases, the content of a mandatory course may vary (eg Commercial Law will necessarily be different across the Malaysia, Dubai and UK campuses). Such local variation should be reflected in the learning outcomes (eg "at the end of this course, the student will be able to apply the principles of in-country commercial law to solve a range of industrial problems").
5. Multi-location/mode programmes may offer different optional courses for the purposes of local contextualisation or to allow individual students to customise their learning. However, the programme and stage learning outcomes must be identical across all versions.
6. Each course offered as part of a multi-location/mode programme must have identical learning outcomes across all variants. The core curriculum (comprising the majority of the course), must be common to all locations and modes. There is, however, scope for variation in terms of content and form of assessment (formative and summative), provided that the course learning outcomes are identical.